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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/082,967	02/25/2002	Roger Dahl	P-9367	7022
27581	7590	02/25/2005		
MEDTRONIC, INC. 710 MEDTRONIC PARKWAY NE MS-LC340 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-5604			EXAMINER MULLEN, KRISTEN DROESCH	
			ART UNIT 3762	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/082,967	DAHL, ROGER	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kristen Mullen	3762	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-11 and 14-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,3-11 and 14-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Min et al. (5,690,686).

Regarding claim 1, Min et al. shows a method for defibrillating a heart, comprising placing a first electrode (23) into electrical contact with a first portion of the heart proximate a superior vena cava; placing a second electrode (8) into electrical contact with an interior wall of an oblique vein; and transmitting an electrical pulse between the first electrode and the second electrode in response to a determination that a cardiac event is detected (Col. 2, lines 36-40; Col. 8, lines 34-46, Fig. 1).

With respect to claim 11, Min et al. shows an apparatus comprising means (15) for placing a first electrode (23) into electrical contact with a first portion of the heart proximate a superior vena cava; means (6) for placing a second electrode (8) into electrical contact with an interior wall of the oblique vein of the heart; and means for transmitting an electrical pulse between the first electrode and the second electrode in response to a determination that a cardiac event is detected (Col. 2, lines 36-40, Col. 8, lines 34-46, Fig. 1).

Regarding claims 3-4, and 14, Min et al. further shows a defibrillation waveform traveling between a location proximate the superior vena cava and the oblique vein in response to detection of atrial fibrillation (Col. 2, lines 36-40).

With respect to claims 5-6, and 15-16, Min et al. shows the method and means for transmitting the electrical pulse further comprises the method and means for transmitting a uniphasic or biphasic electrical pulse between the first electrode and the second electrode (Col. 9, lines 22-28).

With respect to claims 7, and 17, Min et al. shows the method and means (16) for placing a third electrode (20) into electrical contact with a wall of a right ventricle of the heart; and transmitting an electrical pulse between the third electrode and at least one of the first and second electrodes if the heart is experiencing ventricular fibrillation (Col. 8, lines 34-46).

Regarding claim 8, Min et al. shows the method and means for sensing the heart for ventricular fibrillation (Col. 8, lines 34-46).

With respect to claims 9-10, and 19-20, Min et al. shows the method and means for transmitting the electrical pulse further comprises the method and means for transmitting a uniphasic or biphasic electrical pulse between the third electrode and at least one of the first and second electrodes (Col. 8, lines 34-46; Col. 9, lines 22-28).

2. Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 11, 14, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kroll (6,456,876).

Regarding claim 1, Kroll shows a method for defibrillating a heart comprising placing a first electrode (38) into electrical contact with a first portion of the heart proximate a superior vena cava; placing a second electrode (48) into electrical contact with an interior wall of an

oblique vein; and transmitting an electrical pulse between the first electrode and the second electrode in response to a determination that a cardiac event is detected (Col. 4, line 66-Col. 5, line 1).

With respect to claim 11, Kroll shows an apparatus comprising means (30) for placing a first electrode (38) into electrical contact with a first portion of the heart proximate a superior vena cava; means (46) for placing a second electrode (48) into electrical contact with an interior wall of an oblique vein; and means for transmitting an electrical pulse between the first electrode and the second electrode in response to a determination that a cardiac event is detected (Col. 4, line 66-Col. 5, line 1).

Regarding claims 3-4, and 14, Kroll further shows a defibrillation waveform traveling between a location proximate the superior vena cava and the oblique vein in response to detection of atrial fibrillation (step 150, Fig. 2) (Col. 4, line 66-Col. 5, line 1).

With respect to claims 7, and 17, Kroll shows the method and means for placing a third electrode (36) into electrical contact with a wall of a right ventricle of the heart; and transmitting an electrical pulse between the third electrode and at least one of the first and second electrodes if the heart is experiencing ventricular fibrillation (step 140, Fig. 2) (Col. 4, lines 57-65).

Regarding claims 8, and 18, Kroll shows the method and means for sensing the heart for ventricular fibrillation (step 140, Fig. 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5-6, 9-10, 15-16, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kroll (6,456,876) in view of Min et al. (5,690,686). Kroll is as explained before. Although Kroll fails to teach transmitting a uniphasic or biphasic electrical pulse between the first electrode and the second electrode and transmitting a uniphasic or biphasic electrical pulse between the third electrode and at least one of the first and second electrodes, attention is directed to Min et al. which teaches the transmission of biphasic or uniphasic electrical pulses between the first electrode and the second electrode, and between the third electrode and at least one of the first and second electrodes. It would have been an obvious design choice to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to transmit biphasic or uniphasic electrical pulses between the first electrode and the second electrode, and between the third electrode and at least one of the first and second electrodes, since applicant has not disclosed that these particular waveforms provide any criticality and /or unexpected results and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with any waveform such as the waveform taught by Kroll.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 12/15/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant appears to be confusing physical contact with electrical contact. When a defibrillation pulse is applied across the right and left atria, electrical contact is made with

substantially all the tissue of the right and left atria including, among other structures, the interior wall of the oblique vein.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Smits (6,556,873) teaches locating a lead within the oblique vein can result in successful defibrillation of the left atrium (Col. 15, lines 1-3).
7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristen Mullen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4944. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 10:30 am-6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3762

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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